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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,370	12/05/2003	Brad S. Perry	11512.12	2843
21999 7590 02/23/2007 KIRTON AND MCCONKIE 60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE, SUITE 1800 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111			EXAMINER TIMBLIN, ROBERT M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/730,370	Applicant(s) PERRY, BRAD S.	
	Examiner Robert M. Timblin	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action corresponds to application 10/730,370 filed 12/5/2003.

Claims 1-25 have been examined and are pending prosecution.

Response to Amendment

Amendments to claims 1-25 have been accepted and entered by the Examiner. Claims 1, 9, 16, 23, and 24 have been amended to include a limitation originally contained in claim 8. Accordingly, claims 1-25 are currently pending prosecution.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "changing the global computer network universal resource locators". There is insufficient antecedent basis for *the* global computer network universal resource locators in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gabbita et al. ('Gabbita') (US 6,937,993).

With respect to claim 1 and similar claims 9, 16, 23, and 24, Gabbita teaches a method for tracking a process comprising the steps of:

'providing a computer readable medium' (fig.6).

'identifying a class of participants' as selected resources (abstract) defined in column 2 lines 33-34).

'identifying a class of monitoring individuals who monitor the progress of a process through a global computer network' as users from various organizations view information about current Service Orders. Such information can include progress data and workflow (abstract and col. 5 lines 24-51).

'providing selective access to the computer readable medium through the global computer network to the monitoring individuals' as authorized staff (col. 16, lines 6-15).

'inputting the process into the computer readable medium' as storing data associated with the processing and tracking of orders (col. 4 lines 49-54).

'instructing a first service provider in the class of participants through a message sent over the global computer network to begin a first task in the process and to report progress via the computer readable medium' (col. 2 lines 57-63).

'receiving the first service provider's progress report to the computer readable medium' (col. 3 lines 10-13).

'automatically notifying pre-selected participants and monitoring individuals through a message sent over the global computer network when the first task is completed' (col. 2 lines 57-63 and figure 2).

'instructing a second service provider in the class of participants through a message sent over the global computer network to begin a second task in the process and to report progress via the computer readable medium, (col. 1 line 63-col. 2 line 8 and figure 2), wherein once the first service provider has completed the first task and the second service provider has been instructed to begin the second task (col. 2 lines 45-63), the first service provider's access to the computer readable medium through the global computer network becomes limited' (col. 2 line 66-67, col. 11 line 6-11 and line 22-24, and system access and security on table 3 column 29)

'receiving the second service provider's progress report to the computer readable medium' as storing data associated with the processing and tracking of orders (col. 4 lines 49-54).

'automatically notifying the pre-selected participants and the monitoring individuals through a message sent over the global computer network when the second task is completed' (col. 2 lines 57-63 and figure 2).

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With respect to claims 2, 10 and 17, Gabbita teaches 'giving a deadline wherein the deadline is either a specific date or a floating period' as a due date (col. 9 lines 19-27)

With respect to claims 3, 11, and 18, Gabbita teaches 'modifying the process' (col. 9 lines 50-55).

With respect to claims 4-6, 12-14, and 19-21, Gabbita teaches the process is linear and parallel' as the description to workflow beginning column 17 line 17 and in figure 3.

With respect to claims 7, 15, and 22, Gabbita teaches 'the first service provider's progress report includes the first service provider's work product' (abstract).

With respect to claim 8, Gabbita teaches 'the first service provider's access to the computer readable medium through the global computer network becomes limited by a process selected from the group of: limiting the first service provider's access to read-only access; and changing the global computer network universal resource locaters' as assigning Resources to workflow steps in a plan (as the use of in-boxes in abstract, col. 2 line 30-33 and line 45-63, table 3 in column 29 and col. 30 line 62-col31 line 5.

With respect to claim 24, the limitations of this claim are similar to those of the preceding claims and therefore are rejected on the same grounds. Furthermore, Gabbita teaches 'providing an original group of data that the first service provider manipulates' as existing orders (col. 9 lines 50-55

'providing access to a manipulated group of data and the original group of data to the second service provider for further manipulation' as supplemental orders (col. 9 lines 50-55).

With respect to claim 25, Gabbita teaches 'the original group of data is categorized, creating a categorized group of data while leaving the original group of data in its pristine state' (col. 13 lines 24-30).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues on pages 11-12 of the remarks that Gabbita does not disclose limiting access to the workflow system. Specifically, it is argued that Gabbita does not teach the specific limitation claimed occurring once the service provider has completed one task and another service provider has been instructed to begin a second task. The Examiner respectfully disagrees for the reasons set forth above and further as specified below.

In overview, Gabbita teaches a system and method for tracking and processing Service Orders. These Service Orders are accomplished through business procedures, which are modeled by workflows. The workflows comprise a series of steps that are assigned to various resources (which may be computer systems, organizations, or individuals) for completion.

In at least column 2, line 60-63, Gabbita discloses completing a work step (equal to the claimed task) so that another work step can be processed in a similar fashion. Previous to this passage (in col. 2 line 30-50) it is described that each step is assigned to a resource and scheduled for completion. As an appropriate resource is allocated for each work step it is assumed that at least a second service provider to perform tasks. Allocating resources to work steps (tasks) is further described with respect to figure 4.

Further, Gabbita teaches limiting the first service provider's access to the computer readable medium as described in the rejection above with respect to claims 1 and 8. Specifically the work steps are placed in in-boxes associated with the assigned resource. Once a work step arrives in a resource's inbox and is marked current, it can be viewed and responded to. Further, in table 3 in column 29, access parameters are defined that restrict the access for a particular resource. For example, a resource can view and complete assigned WSs (or work steps) in their *own* in box. With these teachings of Gabbita, it is respectfully submitted that users of the resources that have been assigned a current service order can view and complete the assigned work step. Other users are further restricted by the Service Order information they are permitted to view.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Timblin whose telephone number is 571-272-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Robert M. Timblin


Patent Examiner AU 2167



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PRIMARY EXAMINER